"I thought you only reviewed music" said cellist Sam Osofsky '88 after Sunday's assault on Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 by the IAP Orchestra and Chorus, which provided an opportunity for members of the MIT community to read through music they might not otherwise have the chance to perform.

Members of the MIT community—seasoned musicians and those of less experience, virtuosos and those who would like to be—got together to celebrate music, IAP style. Was the afternoon an Ode to Joy? It was a joyous occasion for the 150-odd people who came out of the woodwork to read through this taxing work. And for members of the audience who endured the pain of the inevitable slip-ups that came from lack of rehearsal and experience, there were many passages to be savored, passages of enthusiastic music-making that carried Beethoven's message.

The first three movements were utterly unrehearsed. While the Allegro ma non troppo, un poco maestoso was ragged, a Beethovenian rage developed, building into a whirlpool that provided a climactic finale to the movement. There was reason to cringe at the opening to the Molto vivace, and self-aware laughter as conductor Roland Vasquez briefly brought things to a halt for impromptu in-performance rehearsal. "Good luck," urged violinist Elana Doering G as the Beethoven machine was cranked up for action again.

The beginning of the third movement was smoothly done and filled with pathos: it was solemn and moving. There were some further stops and starts and passages that would have Ludwig van turn in his grave. But the touching depth that came from the orchestra's involved concentration was telling: it made it all worthwhile.

The orchestra had briefly run over the fourth movement with Roland Vasquez when they had reported for duty at 1 pm. The chorus had previously met for preparation by Betsy Burleigh. The results were impressive. The chorus really came together, and had the cohesion to endow many passages with considerable power. The orchestra built on tensions and maintained a concerted drive. Infelicities could be forgotten in the joyful experience.

It was an Ode to Joy after all. For everyone.